The World's Youth: A Profile

prepared by

the Population Reference Bureau, Inc.

in collaboration with

WAY world assembly of youth

The WAY is an international coordinating body of national youth councils and organizations. It has consultative status with the United Nations and seeks to promote the interchange of ideas among youth of all countries, facilitate the collection of information about the needs and problems of youth, increase intercultural respect and foster international understanding, and assist in the development of youth activities and voluntary activities.

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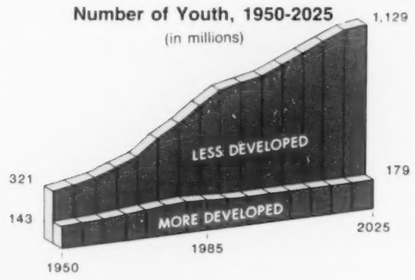
In recognition of . . .
The International Youth Year

The International Youth Year, 1985, has as its theme Participation, Development, and Peace. *Participation* recognizes that each person has the potential to assist in deciding matters that will concern his or her life. *Development* emphasizes youth's role in developing the society in which they will live during their adulthood. *Peace* urges youth to join efforts to promote international harmony and to assist in the safeguarding of basic human rights.

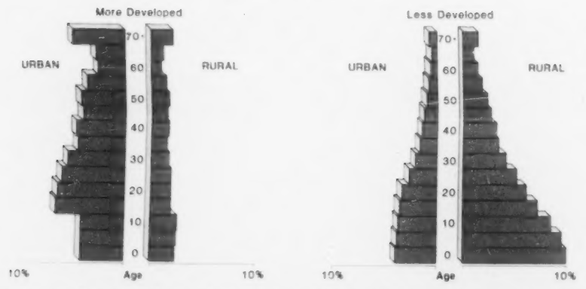
The number of youth is expected to pass the one billion mark by 1990, with most of the increase in today's less developed countries. Increasing the involvement of youth in development would serve to both decrease their underemployment and give them a role in building and planning the society in which they will live.

Number of Youth, 1950-2025
(in millions)



For many of the world's youth, the responsibilities of parenthood come early

Age Distribution, 1980



The rural populations of many less developed countries are largely youth populations. Many youth must find opportunities in the rural areas or seek employment in the growing cities. Each youth's contribution to development exists in the potential—a potential which, once wasted, will not come again.

Region or Country	Youth Population (ages 15-24), 1985 (millions)	Youth Population (ages 15-24) Projected to 2020 (millions)	Total Population, 1985 (millions)	Percent of Population Below Age 25, 1985	Estimated Percent of Children Surviving to Age 20	Average Number of Children per Woman	Percent of Teenagers, Ages 15-19, Having a Birth Each Year	Percent Enrolled in Secondary School, (Male/Female)	Percent of Women (ages 15-49) Using Contraception (Total/Modern Method)	Gross National Product per capita, 1983 (SUS)
WORLD	**940**	**1,281**	**4,845**	**53**	**86**	**3.6**	**5**	**47/36**	**–**	**$2,760**
MORE DEVELOPED	**186**	**172**	**1,174**	**38**	**98**	**2.0**	**3**	**85/87**	**–**	**9,380**
LESS DEVELOPED	**755**	**1,109**	**3,671**	**58**	**85**	**4.2**	**6**	**41/28**	**–**	**700**
LESS DEV. (Excl. China)	**527**	**915**	**2,629**	**60**	**82**	**5.0**	**8**	**37/26**	**–**	**880**
AFRICA	**105**	**296**	**551**	**65**	**75**	**6.3**	**18**	**26/16**	**–**	**750**
NORTHERN AFRICA	**25**	**54**	**128**	**63**	**83**	**6.0**	**10**	**43/31**	**–**	**1,190**
Algeria	4.5	10.8	22.2	66	84	7.0	10	42/29	–	2,400
Egypt	9.6	16.6	48.3	59	84	5.3	9	62/46	24/23	700
Libya	0.7	2.4	4.0	64	87	7.2	11	–	–	7,500
Morocco	4.9	11.2	24.3	66	87	5.9	10	33/22	26/21	750
Sudan	4.1	10.5	21.8	64	76	6.6	11	20/15	5/4	400
Tunisia	1.6	2.1	7.2	61	87	4.9	4	39/25	41/33	1,290
WESTERN AFRICA	**31**	**96**	**166**	**66**	**73**	**6.4**	**21**	**–**	**–**	**580**
Benin	0.7	2.3	4.0	65	71	7.0	22	30/12	20/1	290
Burkina Faso	1.3	3.6	6.9	63	72	6.5	22	4/2	–	180
Cape Verde	0.1	0.1	0.3	54	84	4.5	7	–	–	360
Gambia	0.1	0.3	0.8	61	61	6.4	22	22/10	–	290
Ghana	2.7	8.0	14.3	66	80	6.5	20	42/26	10/6	320
Guinea	1.2	2.9	6.1	62	67	6.2	20	23/9	–	300
Guinea-Bissau	0.2	0.4	0.9	58	71	5.4	–	23/6	–	180
Ivory Coast	1.9	6.2	10.1	64	75	6.7	20	28/11	2/0	720
Liberia	0.4	1.5	2.2	65	77	6.7	21	29/11	–	470
Mali	1.5	4.1	7.7	65	70	6.7	20	13/5	–	150
Mauritania	0.4	1.1	1.9	65	72	6.9	23	16/4	1/0	440
Niger	1.2	3.9	6.5	65	71	7.1	24	5/2	–	240
Nigeria	17.3	55.1	91.2	67	78	6.3	22	–	5/1	760
Senegal	1.2	3.7	6.7	64	71	7.1	22	16/8	4/1	440
Sierra Leone	0.7	1.4	3.6	60	61	6.1	20	15/7	–	380
Togo	0.6	1.7	3.0	63	77	6.1	20	41/14	–	280
EASTERN AFRICA	**30**	**96**	**159**	**66**	**76**	**6.8**	**21**	**14/8**	**–**	**300**
Burundi	0.8	2.2	4.6	63	72	6.4	21	4/2	–	240
Comoros	0.1	0.2	0.5	65	84	6.3	20	33/17	–	–
Djibouti	0.1	0.1	0.3	65	75	6.8	–	–	–	–
Ethiopia	6.8	18.5	36.0	65	71	6.7	21	16/8	–	140
Kenya	3.8	15.2	20.2	71	81	8.0	24	24/16	7/4	340
Madagascar	1.8	5.4	10.0	62	84	6.4	19	13/10	–	290
Malawi	1.3	4.4	7.1	67	74	6.9	23	5/2	–	210
Mauritius	0.2	0.2	1.0	54	96	2.7	5	53/49	50/32	1,150
Mozambique	2.5	7.5	13.9	63	77	6.1	20	9/4	–	–
Reunion	0.1	0.1	0.5	53	96	2.6	7	–	–	3,710
Rwanda	1.2	4.4	6.3	68	77	7.3	22	3/2	–	270
Seychelles	0.02	0.02	0.1	60	97	4.1	7	–	–	2,400
Somalia	1.2	2.8	6.5	62	71	6.5	20	16/6	1/–	250
Tanzania	4.1	15.1	21.7	68	78	7.1	22	4/2	–	240
Uganda	2.8	9.5	14.7	67	80	6.9	22	11/5	–	220
Zambia	1.3	4.4	6.8	66	79	6.8	21	22/12	–	580
Zimbabwe	1.6	5.9	8.6	67	88	6.6	20	27/19	39/27	740
MIDDLE AFRICA	**11**	**33**	**62**	**63**	**73**	**6.1**	**20**	**28/11**	**–**	**420**
Angola	1.5	4.1	7.9	63	70	6.4	–	–	–	–
Cameroon	1.8	4.7	9.7	61	76	6.5	19	25/13	3/1	800
Central African Republic	0.5	1.3	2.7	61	71	5.9	19	21/7	–	280
Chad	1.0	2.5	5.2	61	71	5.9	19	6/1	–	–
Congo	0.3	0.9	1.7	62	75	6.0	20	–	–	1,230
Equatorial Guinea	0.1	0.1	0.3	59	72	5.7	18	18/4	–	–
Gabon	0.2	0.5	1.0	52	77	4.7	15	–	–	4,250
Sao Tome and Principe	0.02	0.03	0.1	65	90	5.4	–	–	–	310
Zaire	6.2	19.0	33.1	64	78	6.1	20	33/13	–	160
SOUTHERN AFRICA	**7**	**16**	**37**	**61**	**78**	**5.2**	**16**	**23/28**	**–**	**2,280**
Botswana	0.2	0.7	1.1	70	87	6.6	–	21/25	28/19	920
Lesotho	0.3	0.7	1.5	61	77	5.8	7	16/24	5/2	470
Namibia	0.2	0.6	1.1	63	76	5.9	20	–	–	1,760
South Africa	6.3	13.6	32.5	60	82	5.1	16	–	50/37	2,450
Swaziland	0.1	0.4	0.6	65	75	6.5	20	43/41	–	890
ASIA	**584**	**699**	**2,829**	**56**	**85**	**3.7**	**3**	**44/29**	**–**	**940**
ASIA (Excl. China)	**356**	**507**	**1,787**	**58**	**82**	**4.6**	**5**	**42/28**	**–**	**1,360**
SOUTHWEST ASIA	**23**	**48**	**114**	**61**	**86**	**5.9**	**8**	**52/33**	**–**	**3,500**
Bahrain	0.1	0.2	0.4	51	92	4.6	–	61/54	–	10,360
Cyprus	0.1	0.1	0.7	41	98	2.5	4	–	–	3,720
Iraq	3.0	7.8	15.5	66	80	6.7	11	70/39	14/12	–
Israel	0.7	1.0	4.2	50	98	3.1	3	71/81	–	5,360
Jordan	0.8	2.7	3.6	69	89	6.6	11	79/76	26/21	1,710
Kuwait	0.3	0.8	1.9	59	94	6.2	8	81/72	–	18,180
Lebanon	0.6	0.9	2.6	59	90	3.8	5	57/59	53/29	–
Oman	0.2	0.6	1.2	61	75	7.1	–	30/12	–	6,240
Qatar	0.1	0.1	0.3	51	94	6.8	11	69/80	–	21,170
Saudi Arabia	2.0	6.3	11.2	61	81	7.2	–	38/25	–	12,180
Syria	2.1	6.0	10.6	68	89	7.3	11	62/40	20/15	1,680
Turkey	10.6	16.4	52.1	58	85	5.1	6	50/27	38/13	1,230
United Arab Emirates	0.2	0.4	1.3	46	94	5.9	9	64/70	–	21,340
Yemen, North	1.2	3.0	6.1	66	71	8.1	12	12/2	1/1	510
Yemen, South	0.4	1.1	2.1	66	74	6.9	11	24/11	–	510
MIDDLE SOUTH ASIA	**215**	**309**	**1,058**	**59**	**76**	**5.0**	**6**	**36/18**	**–**	**260**
Afghanistan	3.0	6.9	14.7	63	59	6.9	16	18/5	2/2	–
Bangladesh	20.0	40.3	101.5	65	72	6.4	13	24/6	19/11	130
Bhutan	0.3	0.5	1.4	59	73	5.5	–	5/1	–	–
India	155.3	196.8	762.2	58	77	4.5	4	39/20	35/28	260
Iran	9.0	16.3	45.1	63	84	5.6	5	48/32	–	–
Maldives	0.04	0.1	0.2	66	78	6.5	–	–	–	–
Nepal	3.2	6.5	17.0	62	73	6.3	8	32/9	7/7	170
Pakistan	20.3	37.2	99.2	65	78	6.4	11	20/8	5/4	390
Sri Lanka	3.5	3.8	16.4	56	92	3.7	4	52/57	55/30	330
SOUTHEAST ASIA	**83**	**116**	**404**	**59**	**87**	**4.4**	**4**	**41/35**	**–**	**710**
Brunei	0.05	0.1	0.2	59	97	4.4	6	–	–	21,140
Burma	7.2	13.3	36.9	61	82	5.3	5	22/18	–	180
Democratic Kampuchea	1.5	1.6	6.2	56	66	4.7	5	24/11	–	–
Indonesia	34.2	46.5	168.4	59	85	4.4	6	38/27	27/23	560
Laos	0.7	1.4	3.8	62	75	6.0	7	22/14	–	–
Malaysia	3.4	4.0	15.7	58	93	4.0	2	50/49	33/23	1,870
Philippines	12.0	16.4	56.8	60	92	4.8	2	62/67	36/16	760
Singapore	0.5	0.4	2.6	45	98	1.7	1	65/66	–/71	6,620
Thailand	11.6	13.9	52.7	59	92	3.5	5	30/28	56/54	810
Vietnam	11.7	17.5	60.5	60	89	4.7	–	53/43	–	–
EAST ASIA	**263**	**228**	**1,252**	**51**	**95**	**2.1**	**z**	**54/38**	**–**	**1,360**
China	227.1	192.4	1,042.0	52	95	2.1	z	49/32	69/66	290
Hong Kong	1.1	0.9	5.5	43	99	2.0	1	64/70	72/63	6,000
Japan	17.2	16.0	120.8	36	99	1.8	z	92/93	57/–	10,100
Korea, North	4.1	6.0	20.1	58	95	4.0	2	–	–	–
Korea, South	9.4	8.2	42.7	52	93	2.6	z	94/85	58/48	2,010
Macao	0.1	0.1	0.3	60	94	3.8	–	–	–	2,560
Mongolia	0.4	0.6	1.9	61	93	4.8	4	82/90	–	–
NORTH AMERICA	**44**	**40**	**264**	**39**	**98**	**1.8**	**5**	**94/96**	**–**	**13,890**
Canada	4.3	4.0	25.4	39	99	1.7	3	96/95	74/71	12,000
United States	39.7	36.3	238.9	39	98	1.8	5	94/96	68/62	14,090
LATIN AMERICA	**82**	**128**	**406**	**58**	**89**	**4.1**	**8**	**42/44**	**–**	**1,890**
MIDDLE AMERICA	**22**	**37**	**105**	**63**	**90**	**4.7**	**8**	**47/45**	**–**	**1,940**
Belize	0.03	0.04	0.2	61	94	4.5	–	–	–	1,140
Costa Rica	0.6	0.8	2.6	58	95	3.5	10	44/51	65/57	1,020
El Salvador	1.0	2.4	5.1	65	90	5.6	10	19/21	34/32	710
Guatemala	1.6	3.8	8.0	63	92	6.1	11	16/15	25/21	1,120
Honduras	0.9	2.5	4.4	67	85	6.5	10	28/36	27/24	670
Mexico	16.7	25.5	79.7	63	91	4.4	11	54/49	48/42	2,240
Nicaragua	0.6	1.5	3.0	67	85	5.9	13	38/45	–	900
Panama	0.4	0.6	2.0	59	94	3.5	11	59/68	61/57	2,070
CARIBBEAN	**7**	**8**	**31**	**56**	**92**	**3.3**	**8**	**46/49**	**–**	**–**
Antigua and Barbuda	0.02	0.02	0.1	59	97	2.4	9	–	48/–	1,730
Bahamas	0.05	0.1	0.2	58	97	2.5	6	–	–	4,060
Barbados	0.1	0.05	0.3	48	98	2.0	8	86/91	46/44	3,930
Cuba	2.3	1.8	10.1	49	98	1.8	7	70/75	–	–
Dominica	0.02	0.02	0.1	59	97	3.4	11	–	62/–	970
Dominican Republic	1.4	1.9	6.2	63	89	4.1	7	–	46/42	1,380
Grenada	0.03	0.03	0.1	60	98	2.9	13	–	–	990
Guadeloupe	0.1	0.1	0.3	55	97	2.6	4	–	44/36	–
Haiti	1.1	2.8	5.8	65	79	5.5	12	13/12	19/6	320
Jamaica	0.6	0.5	2.3	61	95	3.4	9	54/62	51/48	1,300
Martinique	0.1	0.1	0.3	53	97	2.4	4	–	51/39	4,270
Netherlands Antilles	0.1	0.1	0.3	57	96	2.9	–	–	–	–
Puerto Rico	0.6	0.7	3.3	49	97	2.7	8	–	69/–	2,890
St. Kitts-Nevis	0.01	0.01	0.04	64	92	3.6	13	–	–	820
Saint Lucia	0.03	0.04	0.1	69	97	4.2	17	–	43/–	1,060
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.03	0.03	0.1	60	90	4.0	14	–	55/–	860
Trinidad and Tobago	0.3	0.3	1.2	53	95	2.9	6	63/63	52/46	6,900
TROPICAL SO. AMERICA	**46**	**72**	**225**	**58**	**89**	**4.2**	**7**	**37/40**	**–**	**1,860**
Bolivia	1.2	3.4	6.2	63	78	6.3	4	37/31	26/11	510
Brazil	28.1	41.1	138.4	57	89	4.0	8	29/35	50/–	1,890
Colombia	6.4	8.4	29.4	59	90	3.6	6	45/51	49/39	1,410
Ecuador	1.8	3.8	8.9	64	88	5.0	7	56/56	40/33	1,430
Guyana	0.2	0.2	0.8	59	94	3.3	6	55/59	31/28	520
Paraguay	0.7	1.4	3.6	62	93	4.9	7	37/35	36/24	1,410
Peru	3.9	6.7	19.5	61	85	5.2	8	63/54	41/17	1,040
Suriname	0.1	0.1	0.4	70	95	4.1	7	46/51	–	3,520
Venezuela	3.5	6.2	17.3	61	93	4.1	9	41/38	49/38	4,100
TEMPERATE SO. AMERICA	**8**	**10**	**46**	**48**	**95**	**3.1**	**–**	**55/63**	**–**	**2,020**
Argentina	4.8	7.2	30.6	47	95	3.4	–	54/63	–	2,030
Chile	2.4	2.8	12.0	51	97	2.6	7	56/62	–	1,870
Uruguay	0.5	0.6	3.0	43	95	2.8	6	59/60	–	2,490
EUROPE	**77**	**63**	**492**	**37**	**98**	**1.8**	**3**	**76/80**	**–**	**8,200**
NORTHERN EUROPE	**13**	**10**	**83**	**36**	**98**	**1.8**	**2**	**85/89**	**–**	**9,680**
Denmark	0.8	0.5	5.1	34	98	1.4	1	106/105	76/71	11,490
Finland	0.7	0.5	4.9	34	99	1.7	2	92/104	77/60	10,440
Iceland	0.04	0.04	0.2	43	99	2.2	5	91/84	–	10,270
Ireland	0.6	0.8	3.6	48	98	3.0	2	90/101	60/14	4,810
Norway	0.7	0.5	4.2	36	99	1.7	2	92/98	71/64	13,820
Sweden	1.2	0.8	8.3	32	99	1.6	2	80/90	75/68	12,400
United Kingdom	9.3	6.9	56.4	36	98	1.8	3	82/85	75/66	9,050
WESTERN EUROPE	**25**	**16**	**155**	**34**	**99**	**1.6**	**2**	**82/92**	**–**	**10,870**
Austria	1.3	0.8	7.5	35	98	1.6	4	73/76	–	9,210
Belgium	1.5	1.0	9.9	34	98	1.6	2	94/94	81/46	9,160
France	8.5	7.4	55.0	36	99	1.8	2	77/93	79/53	10,390
Germany, West	10.0	5.0	61.0	32	98	1.3	1	47/53	–	11,420
Luxembourg	0.1	0.03	0.4	33	98	1.6	2	69/70	–	12,190
Netherlands	2.5	1.5	14.5	36	99	1.5	1	100/97	70/65	9,910
Switzerland	0.9	0.6	6.5	29	99	1.6	1	–	–	16,390
EASTERN EUROPE	**16**	**17**	**112**	**38**	**97**	**2.1**	**5**	**64/71**	**–**	**–**
Bulgaria	1.2	1.2	8.9	36	98	2.0	8	83/82	76/–	–
Czechoslovakia	2.1	2.4	15.5	38	97	2.1	5	34/58	66/30	–
Germany, East	2.6	1.9	16.7	34	98	1.8	5	–	–	–
Hungary	1.3	1.3	10.7	34	97	1.8	6	74/72	73/44	2,150
Poland	5.3	5.9	37.3	39	97	2.4	3	73/78	75/16	–
Romania	3.4	4.0	22.8	40	96	2.2	7	69/73	57/5	–
SOUTHERN EUROPE	**23**	**20**	**143**	**39**	**98**	**1.9**	**4**	**78/77**	**–**	**4,810**
Albania	0.6	0.8	3.0	56	94	3.6	–	71/61	–	–
Greece	1.5	1.6	10.1	37	98	2.1	5	88/79	–	3,970
Italy	9.0	6.4	57.4	36	98	1.6	4	73/72	78/33	6,350
Malta	0.1	0.05	0.4	39	97	2.1	2	80/72	–	3,710
Portugal	1.8	1.6	10.3	42	97	2.0	4	48/51	76/37	2,190
Spain	6.4	6.0	38.5	41	98	2.0	3	86/90	51/19	4,800
Yugoslavia	3.6	3.2	23.1	39	95	2.1	5	85/79	59/14	2,570
USSR	**44**	**51**	**278**	**41**	**95**	**2.4**	**2**	**–**	**–**	**6,350**
OCEANIA	**4**	**5**	**24**	**46**	**94**	**2.7**	**3**	**71/71**	**–**	**8,570**
Australia	2.7	2.5	15.8	41	98	1.9	3	88/91	67/46	10,780
Fiji	0.1	0.1	0.7	56	93	3.6	5	72/75	41/35	1,790
French Polynesia	0.03	0.05	0.2	62	94	3.9	–	–	–	8,190
New Caledonia	0.03	0.04	0.2	56	96	3.6	9	–	–	7,790
New Zealand	0.6	0.5	3.3	43	98	1.9	4	80/83	–	7,410
Papua-New Guinea	0.6	1.2	3.3	62	80	6.0	–	17/8	–	790
Samoa, Western	0.03	0.1	0.2	59	91	4.9	–	–	–	–
Solomon Islands	0.05	0.1	0.3	66	85	7.2	–	–	–	640
Vanuatu	0.03	0.1	0.1	64	83	6.0	–	–	–	–

Youth 1985 · Youth 2020 · Total pop. · % < 25 · % Surv. to 20 · # per woman · % teen births · Sec. sch. m/f · Contraception · G.N.P.

Figures shown represent the most recent data or estimates available at the time of publication. Generally, data in the tables and figures are from the publications and datafiles of the Population Division of the United Nations, the United Nations *Demographic Yearbook*, estimates and projections of the World Bank, the UNESCO *Yearbook*, estimates prepared by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, major fertility surveys, PRB projections, and special studies. Please contact the PRB for specific data sources. *Notes — the percent who survive to age 20* was estimated from model life tables appropriate to each country's pattern and level of mortality. The *average number of children per woman*, or total fertility rate, is the mean number of children a woman would bear at the most recently measured rate in a survey, census, or vital statistics system. The *percent enrolled* is total secondary enrollment divided by the applicable age group, or gross rates; since some students may not be attending a grade appropriate for their age, these rates can exceed 100 percent. z indicates that a statistic rounds to zero. A dash (–) indicates data or estimate not available.

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